THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. But this question remains. When we take up the Short Duration Discussion on Jammu and Kashmir, perhaps, the reply will come. So, we can still hope for a reply.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Indo-US Defence Policy Group meet

*244. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indo-US Defence Policy Group met from 20-23 May, 2002 in Washington DC;

(b) if so, the details of progress made in the areas of cooperation on defence and security matters in this meeting; and

(c) the details of decisions jointly taken by the Indo-US Defence Policy Group in December 2001, matured so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) It is a fact that the Indo-US Defence Policy Group met from 20-23, May, 2002 in Washington DC.

(b) The Meeting led to a greater appreciation of India's security concerns, particularly in regard to Pakistani's sponsored cross-border terrorism. The two sides also reaffirmed their commitment to continue to cooperate in the task of combating terrorist organizations and entities and to prevent proliferation of weapons and mass destruction. It was further decided that the two sides would cooperate in the areas of specialized training programmes and joint exercises as also to develop a defence supply relationship.

(c) The details of significant decisions jointly taken by the Indo-US Defence Policy Group in December 2001 which have matured are as follows:

(i) Signing of a General Security of Military Information Agreement, (ii) Combined naval patrols in the Strait of Malacca, (iii) Resumption of defence trade, beginning with the "Firefinder" radar purchase, (iv) Combined Special Forces airborne exercises in Agra and (v) India-US Ballistic Missile Defence Workshop.